What is claimed is:

1. A toner used for an image forming method comprising steps of: limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier; and developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system,

wherein the toner comprises toner particles having a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0.

2. The toner of claim 1, having a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

3. The toner of claim 1, containing external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

4. The toner of claim 3, wherein one of the external additives is a small-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 30 nm or less.

5. The toner of claim 4, wherein one of the external additives is a large-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter larger than that of the small-sized external additive, and of 15 to 70 nm.

6. The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium and the resin particle has a softening point of 90 to 140°C.

7. An image forming method comprising the steps of:

limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier; and

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system,

wherein the toner has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0.

8. The image forming method of claim 7, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

9. The image forming method of claim 7, wherein the toner contains external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

10. The image forming method of claim 9, wherein one of the external additives is a small-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 30 nm or less.

11. The image forming method of claim 10, wherein one of the external additives is a large-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter

larger than that of the small-sized external additive, and of 15 to 70 nm.

12. The image forming method of claim 7, wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium, and the resin particle has a softening point of 90 to 140°C.

13. An image forming method comprising steps of:

limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier; and

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system,

wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium, and has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter

distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0; and

the toner carrier comprises a conductive base, and an elastic layer, an intermediate layer and a surface layer formed on the conductive base, wherein volume resistivity $\sigma 1$ of the elastic layer, volume resistivity $\sigma 2$ of the intermediate layer and volume resistivity $\sigma 3$ of the surface layer satisfy a relation of $\sigma 2 \leqq \sigma 1 \leqq \sigma 3$, and the toner carrier has an arithmetic mean roughness Ra of the surface of 0.8 to 2.5 μm.

14. The image forming method of claim 13, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

15. The image forming method of claim 13, wherein the toner contains external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

16. An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a color toner image comprising a color toner which contains at least one of a yellow toner, a magenta toner and a cyan toner, together with a black toner, on an intermediate transfer body by repeating a process of limiting an amount of toner on a surface of the toner

carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier, developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by a toner carrier based on a non-magnetic single component development system, and transferring the formed toner image to the intermediate transfer body, a plurality of number of times; and

transferring and fixing the color toner image to an image support,

wherein the toner composing the color toner image has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and

a conveyance index Cc of the color toner is 5.0 to 10.0, a conveyance index Bc of the black toner is 2.0 to 6.0, and a relation of Cc>Bc is satisfied.

17. The image forming method of claim 16, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

18. The image forming method of claim 16, wherein the toner contains external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

19. An image forming method comprising steps of:

limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier for each of a plurality of electrostatic latent image carriers;

developing each electrostatic latent image formed on the electrostatic latent image carriers using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system;

forming a color toner image comprising a color toner which contains at least one of a yellow toner, a magenta toner and a cyan toner, together with a black toner by carrying out a primary transfer of the formed toner image to an intermediate transfer body and

carrying out a secondary transfer of the color toner image and fixing the color toner to an image forming support,

wherein the toner composing the color toner image has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more

and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and

a conveyance index Cc of the color toner is 5.0 to 10.0, a conveyance index of Bc the black toner is 2.0 to 6.0, and a relation of Cc>Bc is satisfied.

20. The image forming method of claim 19, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 and 50,000.